GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:248
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
REQUIREMENT OF CLOTHING AND SLEEPING BAGS FOR TROOPS
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been in place with a Swiss firm to set up a unit for making special clothing and sleeping bags for troops deployed at high altitude locations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Directorate General of Quality Assurance had to reject nearly 60,000 sleeping bags meant for troops in high altitude areas including Siachen as they were found to be of `sub-standard quality`;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the supplier;

(e) the reasons for shortfall of special clothing and sleeping bags in the country; and

(f) the total requirement of the Army?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): As there is a substantial requirement for the armed forces for special clothing and sleeping bags in high altitude locations, OFB has been exploring the possibility of setting up a suitable manufacturing facility. They have contacted the major manufacturers in the field including a company from Switzerland. After evaluation of the capabilities of different manufacturers, OFB plans to take steps for technical collobaration for manufacturing the items, after inviting tenders as per the prescribed procedure.

(c) A quantity of 35,580 Nos. has been rejected by DGQA.

(d) Action has been initiated against the firm under Arbitration and Penalty Clauses of the Contract.

(e) & (f): Details of the annual requirement and reserves for special clothing, sleeping bags and related items are given in Annexure-I. There have been shortages in supplies due to the long procurement cycle.